

PORTABLE ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT WITH FIELD-REPLACEABLE
BATTERY/INPUT/OUTPUT MODULE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A portable electronic instrument comprising a processing
unit and a combined power and input/output module. The module
includes a plurality of electrical contacts for mating to
complementary contacts on a processing unit. The mating
surfaces of the processing unit and module are shaped to
10 provide a seal for the contacts when the module is attached
to the instrument. The plurality of electrical contacts are
connected to external ports that are accessible when the
module is attached to the instrument. These ports may include
DC power, AC power, and electric signal inputs and outputs.
15 The module also includes mechanical features that enable it
to be secured in the mated position with respect to the
processing unit. These features may include interlocking tabs
or holes for accepting screws. The module houses an energy
storage device that may be a battery or a capacitor for
20 providing power to the processing unit.